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Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

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Letter dated 16 May 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On 1 May 2001, a letter from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations and the annexes thereto, containing a letter signed by Naira Melkounian, so-called Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nagorny Karabakh, and a "memorandum" were circulated as a document of the General Assembly and the Security Council (A/56/64-S/2001/431).

In this connection I have the honour to state the following:

1. No country of "Nagorny Karabakh", referred to in the foregoing letter, exists in the world. There is the Nagorny Karabakh region of the Republic of Azerbaijan that, as a result of military aggression by the Republic of Armenia against my country, is under its occupation.

2. In its resolutions 822 (1993), 853 (1993), 874 (1993) and 884 (1993), the Security Council unequivocally reaffirmed the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan and reconfirmed particularly that the Nagorny Karabakh region was an integral part of Azerbaijan.

3. Moreover, Armenia itself accepted and recognized the fact that the Nagorny Karabakh region is a part of the Republic of Azerbaijan, having unconditionally joined the consensus in adopting, for instance, General Assembly resolution 49/13 (1994) entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe", paragraph 8 of which read as follows:

* A/56/50.

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"The General Assembly fully supports the activities of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe aimed at achieving a peaceful solution to the conflict in and around the Nagorny Karabakh region of the Republic of Azerbaijan and to alleviate the tension between the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Azerbaijan, and welcomes cooperation between the United Nations and the Conference in this regard."

4. As to the designation Nagorny Karabakh, it is, first of all, a place name in the Russian language, and secondly, a purely geographical concept: it exclusively designates the highland portion of the Greater Karabakh, a big region of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

5. The Government of my country categorically rejects any attempt to disseminate within the United Nations the notion of Nagorny Karabakh as an independent entity. Given the aforementioned resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council, the Government is certain that the United Nations Secretariat will not allow the designation to be misused.

6. The circulation of the above-mentioned letter of highly dubious contents from the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Armenia to the United Nations as a document of the United Nations is blatant testimony of Armenia's direct participation and involvement in the conflict as the main party thereto and of its aggressive and annexationist plans towards Azerbaijan.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 30 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Eldar **Kouliev**
Permanent Representative